

MIDLAND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

2025 FALL RULES

1. Pick-up players are allowed in the fall leagues.
 - a. Teams may pick up AS MANY PLAYERS YOU NEED from other teams on your night of play to start the game.
 - b. With this allowance, you are not allowed to pick up players just to bat extra players; (i.e. if you have seven players, you can pick up three to get to 10, but not five to bat 12.)
 - c. **Pickup players must bat at the end/bottom of your lineup.**
2. All leagues will utilize the 12" Ball Hot Dot softball.
3. The current USA softball runs-ahead rule will be in effect for all games.
4. The USA softball short-handed rule will be in effect regardless of number of batters.
5. Stealing is not allowed.
6. Tie games will be played out and international tiebreaker rule applies.
7. Batters will start with a 1-1 count. There is no courtesy foul ball.
8. Courtesy Runner:
 - a. Any eligible player, whether in the current line-up or not, may be used as a courtesy runner.
 - b. Men's: A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.
 - c. Co-ed: A courtesy runner may be used once per inning per gender and male for male and female for female and not interchangeable.
 - d. Courtesy runners cannot be a pick-up player that is not in the lineup.
9. **Three home run limit (and then one-up) is in effect for all leagues.**
 - a. Each team is allowed to hit three home runs.
 - b. Once both teams have reached their allotted home run limit; either team may hit an additional home run, to go **one-up**; however, no team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team, after reaching their limit of three. Any home run hit over the limit of three will result in a dead ball out.
 - c. If one team does not hit three homeruns, then the one-up rule will not be used.
 - d. Considering the bottom of the 7th inning or later, the home team, may hit any number of home runs to pull even with the number of home runs hit by the visiting team, but may not hit a home run to go one-up. **A one-up home run, in the bottom half of the 7th inning or the bottom half of any later inning, will result in a dead ball out.**
10. Lineup:
 - a. You can bat your whole roster in the lineup but are limited to 10 players on defense.
 - b. For co-ed, this means batting 10, 12, 14, etc., due to adding a male and female in combination. Rule about pick-up players still exists, you can't pick up players to bat extra batters.
 - c. Short-handed rule is still in play, if someone is injured and can't be substituted, there is an out taken. If there is an ejection, and no substitutions, the game is forfeited. A team can not add a pick-up player to avoid an out or an ejection.

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SPECIAL CO-ED ADDENDUM:

1. **Coed teams consist of 10 players; five males and five females.** Each team must have a minimum of nine (9) players to start the game, five (5) male and four (4) female, or five (5) female and four (4) male with the tenth player position taking an out. There are no requirements on positions played in league play.
2. **Coed Line:** 175' line is an arc 175' from home plate that runs from foul line to foul line. When a player is at bat, no outfielder may be within that arc until the ball is hit. Infielders must play normal depth and only four infielders in addition to the pitcher and catcher are allowed. There must be two infielders on either side of second base, not counting the pitcher and catcher, prior to the ball being hit.
Penalty for not staying outside the 175' line or infielders not being at normal depth/ position, will be single to the batter, or the result of the previous play, whichever is greater. Example: Player at bat, outfielder is within 175' arc, player hits the ball. Ball gets past fielder, runners on base score and batter ends up on second. Play stands, result of play is greater than the within arc penalty. Example: Player at bat, outfield is within arc. Player hits ball and outfield makes a catch. Dead ball, batter is awarded first base; all other base runners advance one base if forced.
3. **Substitutions:** A male player can only replace a male player, and a female player can only replace a female player.
4. The batting order must alternate between male and female players. The first batter in the line-up can be either.
5. If a male batter walks, he is awarded second base. The next batter (a female) will bat. **EXCEPTION:** With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
6. Players may only wear **molded cleats, all-purpose shoes or tennis shoes** in coed games. **Players wearing metal cleats will not be allowed to play**, there are no exceptions. A player caught with metal cleats, male or female, will be asked to change them, or be disqualified.
7. It is strongly recommended, for safety purposes, that teams use a male pitcher.
8. The extra player rule in coed requires that when used, it must be with two extra players, one male and one female.